

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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TOPOL 578

Oct 28 12 12 PM '67

Origin
SS

ACTION: Ambassador PARIS ~~for INFO~~
USUN FOR INFO 1128 listed page 3
REPEAT ALL NATO CAPITALS/EYES ONLY INFO AMBASSADORS.
USRO PASS EMBASSY

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1. The President desires that your briefing of NATO be essentially factual and reflect clear determination of US Government to press on its present course as reflected in (1) White House statement issued noon Saturday on continuing buildup (2) President's message to Khrushchev released White House Saturday evening, (3) announcement by DOD of continued surveillance, and (4) DOD announcement call up of Air reserves (all contained wireless file).

2. You can report that message from Khrushchev to President received night October 26 (being repeated Finletter, Paris and London only), while full of polemics, seemed to offer real hope solution could be found within framework supervised withdrawal offensive weapons from Cuba in exchange for commitment by United States not invade Cuba. U Thant's conversations in New York and broad hints in Cuban speeches at UN also seemed offer hope settlement along these lines could promptly be reached. Khrushchev's message to U Thant agreeing keep Soviet vessels temporarily outside quarantine area also seemed favorable sign.

These hopes have been diminished by subsequent public letter from Khrushchev to the President linking Cuban settlement to withdrawal of NATO ~~and~~ Jupiters from Turkey, but we continue to press for solution in Cuban framework alone.

3. The situation as we see it is increasingly serious and time is

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RE: G:UAJohnson:ges 10/26/67

Telegraphic Transmission and

Classification approved by:

G - U. Alexis Johnson

Clearances:

White House - Mr. Bundy
EUR - Mr. Tyler
NSA - Mr. Tolkot

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(c) and 5(1) or (2)

By ~~SECRET~~ 9/27/74

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growing shorter. The United States remained ⁵determined to insure removal of offensive installations in Cuba. We are combining reasonable diplomatic offers and military pressure in even balance to this end.

4. But construction on the missile sites continues and there is every indication that more of the missiles are becoming operationally ready. Moreover, unarmed U.S. military aircraft which today were conducting publicly announced surveillance over Cuba were exposed to intensive ground fire and one of these aircraft is missing.

5. At the same time, Soviet vessels are also continuing to proceed toward the quarantine area in direct violation of Khrushchev's assurances to U Thant, although the Soviet Government was officially informed of the limits of the quarantine area by both U Thant and the United States Government. At the present rate of speed the first vessel ~~will~~ will reach the quarantine area during daylight Sunday and an incident may occur.

6. In these circumstances the United States Government may find it necessary within a very short time in its own interest and that of its fellow nations in the Western Hemisphere to take whatever military action may be necessary to remove this growing threat to the Hemisphere.

7. In the light of the developing possibility of the necessity for action in Cuba, the President has instructed you to bring this matter fully to the attention of the MAC. You should say that while the US holds to the position that this matter should be settled within framework of the public message to President Western Hemisphere, we have taken note of the Soviet message of October 27th in which a connection is made between ~~the~~ missile defense and Soviet action in

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